

May 6, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA - 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

9096 '99 MAY 13 P1:41

Re: Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing,
and Handling of Food

To Whom it may concern:

I request that the FDA retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by Irradiation," and the use of radura symbol on all irradiated whole foods.

Regarding the issue of labeling, in its initial petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of a food, and thus should be disclosed. The material fact remains; therefore, labeling should remain. Consumer acceptability, storage qualities and nutrients are affected. Some irradiated foods have a different texture and spoilage characteristics than untreated foods. Most fruits and vegetable have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

In addition, processing by irradiation causes chemical changes that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. Meat may have a higher level of carcinogenic benzene.. All irradiated foods contain unique radiolytic products that have never been tested.

Whether or not the FDA has approved irradiation as safe, it remains a new technology with no long-term human feeding studies. As a consumer, I have a right to know if this process is used in foods that I may buy.

I believe the label should state in clearly visible type whether or not a particular food has been irradiated. For whole foods such as produce, a prominent informational display similar to that used for meats should be used and contain the term "irradiation" and the radura.

Because the long-term effects have not been assessed and because as a consumer I need to be able to make intelligent, informed choices on the food that I buy, which could affect my health, the current labeling requirement should not be permitted to expire.

Yours truly,

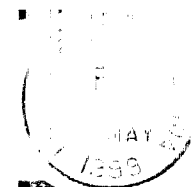


Lu Ann Loftin
Citizen
829 1/2 N. Edinbrough
Los Angeles, CA 90046

98N-1038

C15-64

L. Loftin
829 1/2 N. Edinburgh
Los Angeles, CA 90046



Dockets Management Branch (HFA - 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

20857-0001

